



--Atty. Dkt. No. 9237-75--

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below-named inventor, I HEREBY DECLARE:

THAT my residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

THAT I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one inventor is named below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below or in an attached Declaration) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**SEED PLANTER APPARATUS AND METHOD**

(Attorney Docket No. 9237-75)

the specification of which (check one)

is attached hereto.

was filed on April 15, 1998 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number 09/061,084 and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

THAT I do not know and do not believe that the same invention was ever known or used by others in the United States of America, or was patented or described in any printed publication in any country, before I (we) invented it;

THAT I do not know and do not believe that the same invention was patented or described in any printed publication in any country, or in public use or on sale in the United States of America, for more than one year prior to the filing date of this United States application;

THAT I do not know and do not believe that the same invention was first patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate that issued in any country foreign to the United States of America before the filing date of this United States application if the foreign application was filed by me (us), or by my (our) legal representatives or assigns, more than twelve months (six months for design patents) prior to the filing date of this United States application;

THAT I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above;

THAT I believe that the above-identified specification contains a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention, and sets forth the best mode contemplated by me of carrying out the invention; and

THAT I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I HEREBY CLAIM foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also

identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

| Prior Foreign Application Number | Country | Foreign Filing Date | Priority Claimed? | Certified Copy Attached? |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
|                                  |         |                     |                   |                          |
|                                  |         |                     |                   |                          |
|                                  |         |                     |                   |                          |

I HEREBY CLAIM the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

| U.S. Provisional Application Number | Filing Date |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
|                                     |             |
|                                     |             |
|                                     |             |

I HEREBY CLAIM the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

| U.S. Parent Application Number | PCT Parent Application Number | Parent Filing Date | Parent Patent Number |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 08/581,444                     |                               | 12/29/95           |                      |
| 08/702,294                     |                               | 08/20/96           |                      |
| 08/700,214                     |                               | 08/20/96           |                      |
| 08/700,255                     |                               | 08/20/96           |                      |
| 08/700,217                     |                               | 08/20/96           |                      |
| 08/700,222                     |                               | 08/20/96           |                      |

I HEREBY APPOINT the following registered attorneys and agents of the law firm of BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE to have full power to prosecute this application and any continuations, divisions, reissues, and reexaminations thereof, to receive the patent, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| MELVIN F. JAGER     | Reg. No. 22,131 |
| GUSTAVO SILLER, JR. | Reg. No. 32,305 |
| FRANK C. NICHOLAS   | Reg. No. 33,983 |
| MICHAEL D. GANNON   | Reg. No. 36,807 |
| STEPHANIE S. CONIS  | Reg. No. 40,569 |

and I request that all correspondence be directed to:

FRANK C. NICHOLAS  
BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE  
P.O. Box 10395  
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Telephone: (312) 321-4200  
Facsimile: (312) 321-4299

I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT the foregoing attorneys and agents appointed by me to prosecute this application do not personally represent me or my legal interests, but instead represent the interests of the legal owner(s) of the invention described in this application.

I FURTHER DECLARE THAT all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Name of first inventor | Richard J. Crabb                                    |
| Residence              | Naperville, Illinois                                |
| Citizenship            | U.S.  |
| Post Office Address    | 298 Winding Creek Drive, Naperville, Illinois 60565 |
| Inventor's signature   | <i>Richard J. Crabb</i>                             |
| Date                   | <i>20 August 1998</i>                               |

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Name of second inventor | Guntis Ozers                                       |
| Residence               | Woodridge, Illinois                                |
| Citizenship             | U.S.   |
| Post Office Address     | 6425 Bobby Jones Lanes                             |
| Inventor's signature    | Woodridge, Illinois 60517                          |
| Date                    | <i>Guntis Ozers</i><br>21 AUG 98                   |
| Name of first inventor  | David N. Slowinski                                 |
| Residence               | Naperville, Illinois                               |
| Citizenship             | U.S.   |
| Post Office Address     | 2703 Salix Circle, Naperville, Illinois 60564      |
| Inventor's signature    | <i>David N. Slowinski</i>                          |
| Date                    | 21 August 98                                       |
| Name of first inventor  | Chad M. Johnson                                    |
| Residence               | Lockport, Illinois                                 |
| Citizenship             | U.S.   |
| Post Office Address     | 525 Charles Street, Lockport, Illinois 60441       |
| Inventor's signature    | <i>Chad M. Johnson</i>                             |
| Date                    | 24 AUGUST 98                                       |
| Name of first inventor  | Donald Johnson                                     |
| Residence               | Lockport, Illinois                                 |
| Citizenship             | U.S.   |
| Post Office Address     | 17626 Crystal Lake Drive, Lockport, Illinois 60441 |
| Inventor's signature    | <i>Donald J. Johnson</i>                           |
| Date                    | 25 Aug 98  |

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Name of first inventor | Lisle J. Dunham                                     |
| Residence              | Downers Grove, Illinois                             |
| Citizenship            | U.S.  |
| Post Office Address    | 540 Gierz Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515     |
| Inventor's signature   | <i>Lisle J. Dunham</i>                              |
| Date                   | 20 Aug. 98  |
| Name of first inventor | John F. Stufflebeam                                 |
| Residence              | Romeoville, Illinois                                |
| Citizenship            | U.S.  |
| Post Office Address    | 416 Montrose Drive, Romeoville, Illinois 60446      |
| Inventor's signature   | <i>John F. Stufflebeam</i>                          |
| Date                   | 25 Aug 98   |
| Name of first inventor | Thomas A. Olson                                     |
| Residence              | Bolingbrook, Illinois                               |
| Citizenship            | U.S.  |
| Post Office Address    | 455 Sauk Lane, Bolingbrook, Illinois 60440          |
| Inventor's signature   | <i>Thomas A. Olson</i>                              |
| Date                   | 20 Aug. 1998  |
| Name of first inventor | Stephen D. Berry                                    |
| Residence              | Plainfield, Illinois                                |
| Citizenship            | U.S.  |
| Post Office Address    | 13854 S. Petoskey Drive, Plainfield, Illinois 60544 |
| Inventor's signature   | <i>Stephen D. Berry</i>                             |
| Date                   | 24 Aug 1998   |

Name of first inventor Thomas Brown  
Residence Romeoville, Illinois  
Citizenship U.S.  
Post Office Address 172 S. Highpoint Drive/#208, Romeoville, Illinois 60446  
Inventor's signature Thomas Brown  
Date 9/8/98

Name of first inventor Gerald J. Tiedt  
Residence Willow Springs, Illinois  
Citizenship U.S.  
Post Office Address 8540 Candlelight East, Willow Springs, Illinois 60480  
Inventor's signature Gerald J. Tiedt  
Date 9/9/98